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MOSCOW AND THE JCP: UNMENDED FENCES

ANNCR:

FIVE YEARS AGO, OFFICIALS OF BOTH THE JAPANESE SOCIALIST PARTY AND THE JAPANESE COMMUNIST PARTY TRAVELLED TO MOSCOW FOR THE TWENTY-FOURTH SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS. THEIR ABSENCE AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SOVIET CONGRESS LAST MONTH UNDERSCORES THE CONTINUING STRAINS IN MOSCOW'S RELATIONS WITH JAPAN'S TWO LARGEST OPPOSITION PARTIES...AS WE HEAR IN THIS BACKGROUND REPORT BY VOA'S JOSEPH KUN.

VOICE:

JAPANESE SOCIALIST PARTY SOURCES SAY THAT NO INVITATION TO THE SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS WAS RECEIVED, THOUGH A SOCIALIST DELEGATION HAD BEEN SELECTED. THE J-S-P, WHICH OVER THE YEARS MAINTAINED GENERALLY FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY, HAS OF LATE BEEN AT ODDS WITH MOSCOW OVER A VARIETY OF FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. A HIGH-RANKING J-S-P DELEGATION, WHICH VISITED CHINA LAST SPRING, PROVOKED SOVIET DISPLEASURE BY ENDORSING AN "ANTI-HEGEMONY" FORMULATION THAT PEKING INSISTS BE INCLUDED IN THE DRAFT PEACE TREATY BETWEEN JAPAN AND CHINA. MOSCOW HAS DENOUNCED THE CLAUSE AS BEING ANTI-SOVIET IN INTENT. MOSCOW'S IRE WAS ALSO RAISED BY A DRAFT POLITICAL PROGRAM OF THE J-S-P WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, DENOUNCES THE INCREASING NUCLEAR AND NAVAL POWER OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION.

AS FOR THE JAPANESE COMMUNIST PARTY, FROM ALL INDICATIONS, IT WAS NOT REPRESENTED AT THE SOVIET CONGRESS ON ITS OWN FREE WILL. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET AND JAPANESE COMMUNIST PARTIES HAVE BEEN STRAINED FOR MANY YEARS. IN THE EARLY NINETEEN SIXTIES, THE J-C-P JOINED CHINA IN CRITICIZING NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV'S AUTHORITARIAN HANDLING OF SOVIET RELATIONS WITH OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES. THE J-C-P HAS ALSO BEEN SOMETHING OF A "BLACK SHEEP" IN PEKING AS WELL, IN LARGE PART BECAUSE OF ITS NEUTRAL STANCE IN THE SINO-SOVIET DISPUTE.

HAVING BEEN BRANDED BY PEKING AS A TRAITOR TO MARXISM-LENINISM, THE JAPANESE COMMUNIST PARTY MADE A SERIES ATTEMPT TOWARD RAPPROCHEMENT WITH MOSCOW. A SERIES OF TALKS WERE HELD BETWEEN J-C-P REPRESENTATIVES AND SOVIET PARTY OFFICIALS, AND THE JAPANESE SUBSEQUENTLY SENT A DELEGATION TO THE TWENTY-FOURTH SOVIET CONGRESS IN 1971. BUT RELATIONS SOON DETERIORATED AGAIN.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE JAPANESE COMMUNIST PARTY HAS FOLLOWED POLICIES IN THE COMMUNIST COMMUNITY WHICH GIVES IT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF IDENTITY WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTIES OF WESTERN EUROPE. JAPAN'S COMMUNISTS HAVE ALSO MAINTAINED CONTACTS WITH THE INDEPENDENT-MINDED RUMANIAN, NORTH KOREAN AND NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST PARTIES.

AT HOME, JAPAN'S COMMUNIST PARTY HAS PRESSED FOR THE FORMATION OF A UNITED FRONT WITH THE JAPANESE SOCIALIST PARTY TO CHALLENGE THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S LONG-STANDING DOMINATION OF JAPANESE POLITICAL LIFE. AT THE SAME TIME, IT

HAS QUIETLY DEEMPHASIZED ITS RADID ANTI-AMERICAN STANCE. AND, WHILE CONTINUING TO OPPOSE THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY, HAS NONETHELESS COME OUT FOR STRENGTHENED RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES, BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY.

JS/PY